

Remarks

The Office Action dated July 21, 2008 has been reviewed carefully and the application amended in a sincere effort to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of the claims, and allowance of the same, are respectfully requested on the basis of the following remarks.

Upon entry of this response, claims 1-2, 6-19, 21-47, and 51-52 will be pending in the application.

Claims 1, 23, and 32 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found in the Examples as filed. As can be seen from these Examples (e.g., Examples D, E, and F), no other curing catalyst, other than the organotin catalyst disclosed therein, is used. Because there is support for the amendments to the claims in the original disclosure, it is submitted that no issue of new matter is presented.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 16-19, 21-27, 29-38, 44-47, 51, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 6-10, 16-19, 21-27, 29-38, 44-47, 51, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6, 042,893 (hereinafter, "Bossert").

In general, it appears that Bossert discloses (i) a blocked reactive component (such as a blocked isocyanate); (ii) a functional compound reactive with component (i); and (iii) a catalyst for promoting the reaction of components (i) and (ii) wherein the catalyst is based on the reaction product of manganese, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, germanium, antimony, or bismuth. See Abstract. Component (iii) can be used in conjunction with other compounds, such as organotin compounds, to promote the reaction. See Abstract. Bossert clearly discloses that the invention disclosed therein is the use of a catalyst based on the elements from Groups VIIB, VIII, IB, IIB, IVA, or VA of the Periodic Table of the Elements in combination with a triorgano tin compound (e.g., trioctyl tin oxide, TOTO). See column 4, lines 33-46 and Examples. Bossert also describes that dispersing an insoluble organotin compound, such as TOTO, or an insoluble catalyst, such as a zinc based catalyst, in an electrodepositable coating

formulation is difficult. However, Bossert describes that a combination of both the insoluble organotin compound as well as the insoluble catalyst yields a stable electrodepositable formulation. See column 13, lines 24-42.

In contrast, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 23, and 32 to recite that other than for the organotin catalyst described therein, there is no other curing catalyst in the resinous phase.

Because Bossert does not disclose every feature that is recited in claims 1, 23, and 32, the Applicants submit that these claims, and the claims that depend directly, and/or indirectly therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 16-19, 21-27, 29-38, 44-47, 51, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 6-10, 16-19, 21-27, 29-38, 44-47, 51, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Bossert.

As stated above, Bossert does not disclose every feature that is recited in the Applicant's claims. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Bossert teaches away from the claimed invention. As stated above, column 13, line 24-42, disclose that it is difficult to disperse an insoluble organotin compound in an electrodepositable coating formulation without the use of an insoluble catalyst or vice versa. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that there is no teaching and/or suggestion in Bossert to use only an insoluble organotin compound in an electrodepositable coating formulation. The Applicants, therefore, submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Because Bossert does not disclose and/or suggest every feature that is recited in claims 1, 23, and 32, the Applicants submit that these claims, and the claims that depend directly or indirectly therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing arguments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-2, 6-19, 21-47, and 51-52 are in proper form for issuance of a Notice of Allowance and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Diaz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Diaz" clearly distinguishable.

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